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Articles

of Faith and Covenant

adopted by the

First Church

in

Springfield, Mass.

1853285

ARTICLES

OF FAITH AND COVENANT ADOPTED BY THE FIRST CHURCH IN SPRINGFIELD.

I. WE believe that there is but one GOD, the Creator, Preserver and moral Governor of the Universe; a being of infinite power, knowledge, wisdom, justice, goodness and truth; the self-existent, independent and immutable fountain of good.

Deut. vi. 4. Is. xlv, 22. I. John v, 7. Heb. iii, 4. Neh. ix, 6. Heb. i, 3. Prov. xvi, 33. Job. vii, 20. Ps. xxxvi, 6. Dan. v, 23. Is. ix, 6. Eph. i, 11. Gen. xlv, 5, 7. II. Chron. xx, 6. Ps. ciii, 19. Prov. xvi, 9. Matt. vi, 26. Phil. ii, 13. Jam. i, 17. I. Pet. iii, 22. Gen. vii, 1. Ps. cxlvii, 5. and cxxxix, 1—12. Rom. xi, 33. Acts xv, 18. Col. ii, 3. Deut. xxxii, 4. Exod. xxxiv, 6, 7. Ps. xc, 2. Mal. iii, 6. John iii, 27. Jam. i, 17.

II. WE believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God; that they are profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, and for instruction in righteousness, and that they are our only rule of doctrinal belief and religious practice.

II. Tim. iii, 16. I. Pet. i, 11. II. Pet. i, 21. Heb. i, 1. Is. viii, 20. Acts xvii, 11. Ps. xix, 7, 8, and cxix, 129, 130. Jer. viii, 9. Matt. xxii, 29. Mark vii, 7, 8, 13. Rom. i, 22. Gal. i, 8, 9. Rev. xxii, 18, 19.

III. WE believe that the mode of divine existence is such as lays a foundation for a distinction into three persons,—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one in essence and equal in power and glory.

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I. John v, 7. Matt. xxviii, 19. II. Cor. xiii, 14. Eph. ii, 18. Gen. i, 26, and iii, 22, and xi, 17. Is. vi, 3, 8. Rev. iv, 8. Matt. vii, 21, and xi, 27, and xv, 13, and xvi. 17, and xviii, 10, and xxv, 34. John v, 17, and viii, 19, 54. and xiv, 33, and xxvi, 63, and xvii. 43. John i, 34, and v, 17—23, and viii. 19, 54, and x, 15, 33, 36—38. Is. vii, 14. Matt. i, 23. Is. ix, 6. Heb. i, 3, 8. I. John v, 20. I. Tim. iii, 16. John xx, 28. Phil. ii, 6, 10. 11. Heb. xiii, 8. Rev. i, 8, and ii, 8. Eph. iv, 10. Matt. xviii, 20, and xxviii, 20. John iii, 13. Rev. ii, 23. John ii, 24, 25, and xxi, 17. Matt. viii, 2, and ix, 18, and xv, 25, and xxviii, 9. John ix, 38. Luk. xxiv, 52. Acts vii, 59. Heb. i, 6. Gen. i, 2. Job. xxvi, 13, and xxxiii, 4. Ps. civ, 30. Matt. iii, 16. Luk. i, 35. John iii, 5, and xiv, 16, 17, 26, and xv, 26. Acts ii, 4, and v, 3, 4, and xv, 28, and xvi, 6, 7. Rom. viii, 15, 16, 28, 29. I. Cor. ii, 10, 11, and xii, 3—13. II. Cor. iii, 17. Gal. v, 22, 23. II. Thess. 2, 13. Heb. iii, 7—9. Ex. xvii, 7. Heb. ix, 14.

IV. WE believe that God has made all things for himself; that known unto him are all his works from the beginning; and that he governs all things according to the counsel of his own will.

Gen. i, 3. Prov. xvi, 4. Is. xliii, 7. Rom. xi, 36. Col. i, 16. Rev. iv, 1, and xxi, 6, and xxii, 13. Acts xv, 18. Job xxxi, 4, and xxxvii, 16. Ps. cxxxix, 1—4, and cxlvii, 5. Prov. v, 21, and xv, 3. Jer. xvii, 10. Col. ii, 3. Eph. i, 11. Num. xxiii, 19. Dan. iv, 35. Ps. xxxiii, 11. Prov. xix, 21. Matt. xviii, 7. Luk. xxii, 22. Acts ii, 23, and iv, 27, 28. Phil. ii, 13. Rev. xvii, 17. Is. xiv, 24, 27. Gen. xlv, 5, 7, and l, 20. Acts xvii, 26.

V. WE believe that the divine law and the principles and administration of the divine government, are perfectly holy, just and good; and that all rational beings are bound to approve of them as such.

Deut. iv, 8, and x, 12, 13. Neh. ix, 13, Ps. cxix, 39, 86, 127, 128, 140, 172. I. Tim. i, 8. Gen. xviii, 25. Matt. xxii, 37—40. Deut. xxxii, 4. Job. viii, 3. Ps. lxxxix, 14, and cxlv. 17. Rev. xix, 2.

VI. We believe that God, at first created man in his own image, in a state of rectitude and holiness, and that he fell from that state by transgressing the divine command in the article of forbidden fruit.

Gen. i, 26, 27, 31. Col. iii, 10. Eccl. vii, 29. Gen. ii, 17, and iii, 3, 6.

VII. We believe that in consequence of the apostacy, the heart of man, in his natural state, is destitute of holiness, and in a state of positive disaffection with the law, character and government of God; and that all men previous to regeneration are dead in tresspasses and sins.

Rom. v, 12, 15—18. I. Cor. xv, 21, 22. Gen. vi, 5, 11, and viii, 21. Job xiv, 4, and xv, 14, and xxv, 5, 6. Ps. xiv, 1—3, and lxxiii, 8, 9, and li, 5, and liii, 3, and lviii, 3, 4. Prov. i, 22, and xxvii, 22. Is. i, 5, 6, and liii, 6, and lix, 6, 7. Jer. ii, 13, and iii, 5, and xvi, 12, and xvii, 9, and xviii, 12. Matt. iii, 7, and xii, 34. Mark vii, 21, 22. John iii, 6—19. Rom. viii, 5—8. Gal. v, 19—21. Rom. i, 29, 32, and iii, 9, 19, and vii, 18. Matt. viii, 22. II. Cor. v, 14. Eph. ii, 1—3. Col. ii, 13. Tit. i, 16, and iii, 3. I. Pet. iv, 3.

VIII. We believe that Christ the Son of God, has by his obedience, sufferings and death made atonement for sin; that he is the only Redeemer of sinners; and that all who

are saved, will be altogether indebted to the grace and mercy of God, for their salvation.

Is. liii, 4—7. Dan. ix, 26. Matt. xx, 28, and xxvi, 28. John x, 11, 15, 17. Acts xx, 28. Rom. v, 6, 8—10, and vi, 10, and viii, 20. I. Cor. vi, 20, and vii, 23, and xv, 3. II. Cor. v, 14, 15, and viii, 9. Gal. i, 3, 4, and ii, 20, and iii, 13, and iv, 4, 5. Eph. i, 7, and v, 2, 25. I. Tim. i, 15, and ii, 6. Tit. ii, 14. Heb. i, 3, and ii, 9, and ix, 12, 14, 22, and x, 12, 14, 19, 20, and xiii, 12. I. Pet. iii, 18. I. John i, 7. Rev. i, 5, and v, 9, and vii, 14. Rom. iii, 24. I. Cor. ii, 2, and iii, 11. Acts iv, 12. Eph. ii, 5, 8. Tit. ii, 11. Rom. v, 20, 21, and xi, 6. I. Pet. v, 12. II. Cor. i, 12. Zech. iv, 7. John i, 16. Rom. viii, 32. Gal. i, 15. II. Thes. ii, 16. II. Tim. i, 9. Tit. iii, 7. I. Pet. v, 10.

IX. We believe that although the invitations of the gospel are such, that whosoever will may come and take of the waters of life freely, yet the depravity of the human heart is such, that no man will come to Christ, except the Father, by the special and efficacious influences of his spirit draw him.

Is. lv, 1—3. Rev. xxii, 17. Luke xiv, 17 Matt. xi, 28, 29. John iv, 10, 14, and vi, 35, and vii, 37. Rev. xxi, 6. II. Cor. v, 14. Heb. ii, 3, 9. John iii, 19, and v, 40, and vi, 44, 65. Matt. xxii, 3, 5, 6, Luke xiv, 18—20, and xix, 14. Jer. iii. 7. Ezek. xxxiii, 11. Ps. cx, 3. John i, 13, and iii, 3, 5, 6. I. John iv, 7. Tit. iii, 5. Jam. i, 18. Rom. viii, 30. II. Cor. v, 17. Gal. vi, 15. Eph. i, 19, 20, and ii, 1. Col. ii, 12, 13. I. Pet. i, 23. I. John iii, 9, and v, 4, 18. I. Cor. i, 26, and vi, 11. II. Tim. i, 9. II. Pet. i, 10. Ezek. xi, 19.

X. We believe that those who embrace the gospel, were chosen in Christ before the foun-

dation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before him in love; and that they are saved, not by works of righteousness which they have done, but according to the distinguishing mercy of God, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth.

Eph. i, 4, 5, 11. Jer. xxxi, 3. Acts xiii, 48. Rom. viii, 28—30, 33, and ix, 11, and xi, 5, 7, 28. Matt. xxiv, 22, 24, 31, and xxv, 34. Mark x, 40, and xiii, 20, 22, 27. Luke xviii, 7. Col. iii, 12. I. Thes. i, 4. II. Thes. ii, 13. II. Tim. i, 9. Tit. i, 1. I. Pet. i, 2. II. Pet. i, 10. Rev. xiii, 8. Rom. iii, 20, 28. Gal. ii, 16, 19, and iii, 10, 11, and v, 4. Rom. iv, 13, and ix, 23, 31, 32. Acts xiii, 39. Tit. iii, 5, 7.

XI. We believe that those who cordially embrace Christ, although they may be left to fall into sin, never will be left finally to fall away and perish; but will be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Rom. viii, 1, 29, 30, 38, 39. John iv, 14, and vi, 37, and x, 27—29, and xvii, 11, 12, 15. I. Pet. i, 5. I. Sam. i, 9. Ps. xxxvii, 23, 24, 27, and ciii, 17, 18, and cxxv, 1, 2. Prov. ii, 8. Is. liv, 17. Jer. xxxii, 40. Jude xxiv. Prov. iv, 18, and x, 25. I. Thes. v, 9, 10, 24. II. Thes. iii, 3. Phil. i, 6. I. Cor. i, 8, 9, and x, 13. Job xvii, 9. Matt. vii, 24, 25. John vi, 27, 35, 39, 40, 54—58. Col. iii, 3. Heb. x, 39.

XII. We believe that watchfulness over the life, holy meditation, a conscientious attention upon public, family and secret worship, together with the steady practice of righteousness, truth, sincerity and charity towards man, and of sobriety, chastity and temperance towards ourselves, are the indispensible duties of every christian.

Prov. xvi, 32, and xxv, 28. Eph. iv, 31, 32. I. Cor. xvi, 13. Phil. vi, 5. Jam. iii, 17. Gen. xxiv, 63. Josh. i, 8. Ps. i, 2, and lxxvii, 12, and civ, 34, and cxix, 15, and cxxxix, 17, 18. Heb. x, 25. Matt. xviii, 20. John xx, 19—29. Acts i, 13, 14, and ii, 1, 42, and xx, 7. I. Cor. v, 4, and xiv, 23. Jude xix. Josh. xxiv, 15, Gen. xviii, 19. Matt. vi, 6. Mic. vi, 8. Luk. vi, 31. Rom. xii, 17. Phil. iv, 8. Jam. v, 4. Ps. xxxi, 18, and cix, 29. Prov. vi, 17, and xii, 19. Rev. xxi, 8. II. Cor. i, 12. Matt. xxii, 39. Luke x, 27. I. Cor. xiii. Matt. v, 44. Luke vi, 27. Eph. v, 18. Prov. xxiii, 21. Luke xxi, 34. I. Cor. vi, 10. Matt. v, 28. Gal. v, 19.

XIII. We believe that there will be a general resurrection of the bodies both of the just and of the unjust.

Job xix, 26. Is xxvi, 19. Hos. xiii, 14. Matt. xxii, 29—33. John xi, 23—25. Matt. xvi, 21, and xxvii, 52, 53. I. Cor. xv, 20—22. John v, 28, 29. Acts iv, 2. Rev. xx, 12.

XIV. We believe that all mankind must one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ, to receive a just and final sentence of retribution according to the deeds done in the body; and that at the day of judgment, the state of all will be unalterably fixed; and that the punishment of the wicked, and the happiness of the righteous will be endless.

Ps. l, 6, and lxxv, 7, and xcvi, 13. Eccl. xi, 9, and xii, 14. Acts xvii, 31, and xxiv, 25. Matt. xii, 36, and xiii, 49, and xvi, 27, and xxiv, 30, 31, and xxv, 31—46. Luke xii, 2. John v, 22, 27. Acts x, 42. Rom. ii, 5—11, and xiv, 10—12. Jude vi, 14, 15. II. Cor. v, 10. II. Pet. iii, 7. Rev. xx, 12, 13, and xxii, 12. Matt. xxv, 46. Job xxxi, 3. Ps. xi, 6, and xxxvii, 20, and cxlv, 20. Prov. x, 24, 29, and

xi, 21. Is. iii, 11, and l, 11, and lxvi, 24. Matt. iii, 7, 10, 12. Luke iii, 7, 9, 17. John xvii, 12. Luke xiii, 23—28. Matt. xiii, 24—30, 40—42, 47—50, and xxv, 11, 12, 30—46. John viii, 21—24. Luke xii, 10, and xiii, 3, and xix, 27. Acts i, 25. I. Pet. iv, 18. II. Cor. ii, 15, 16, and v, 10, 11. II. Thes. i, 6—10. Rev. xxii, 11, 12, 19. Ps. xvi, 11, and lxxiii, 24. Prov. iv, 18. Dan. xii, 2, 3. Matt. v, 12, and xiii, 43, and xix, 29. Luke xviii, 29, 30. John iii, 14—16. Rom. vi, 23, and viii, 30. I. Cor. ii, 9, and xiii, 12. II. Tim, iv, 8. Rev. ii, 10, 17, 26—28, and xxi, 4, and xxii, 11.

XV. We believe that Christ has a visible church in the world into which none in the sight of God, but real believers, and none in the sight of man but visible believers, have right of admission.

Matt. xvi, 18, and xviii, 17. Acts ii, 47. II. Cor. vi, 14—18. I. Cor. i, 2. II. Cor. i, 1. I. Thes. i, 1—3. Ps. l, 16.

XVI. We believe that the sacraments of the New Testament are baptism and the Lord's supper; that believers in regular church standing only can consistently partake of the Lord's supper, and that visible believers and their households only, can consistently be admitted to the ordinance of baptism.

Matt. xxviii, 19, and xxvi, 26—30. Gen. xvii, 10. Rom. iv, 11, and xi, 17—24. Acts xv, 1, 24—29. Gal. v, 1, 2, and iii, 27—29. I. Pet. iii, 21. Luke xviii, 15, 16. Acts ii, 39, and xvi, 15, 33. I. Cor. i, 16. Heb. ix, 10.

FORM OF COVENANT.

YOU do now in the presence of God and man, avouch the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to be your GOD, the supreme object of your affection, and your chosen por-

tion forever. You cordially acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ in all his mediatorial offices, Prophet, Priest and King, as your only Saviour and final judge; and the Holy Spirit as your Sanctifier, Comforter and Guide. You humbly and cheerfully devote yourself to God, in the everlasting covenant of grace. You consecrate all your powers and faculties to his service and glory; and you promise to take the scriptures as the rule of your life and conversation; and that through the assistance of his spirit and grace, you will cleave to him as your chief good; that you will give diligent attention to his word and ordinances, to family and secret prayer, and to the observance of his sabbath; that you will seek the honor of his name and the interest of his kingdom; and that henceforth denying all ungodliness and every worldly lust, you will live soberly, righteously and godly in the world.

You do now cordially join yourself to this as a church of Christ, engaging to submit to its discipline, so far as conformable to the rules of the gospel, and solemnly covenanting to strive, as much as in you lies, for its gospel peace, edification and purity; and to walk with its members in christian love, faithfulness, circumspection, meekness and sobriety; and abandoning the sinful pleasures and amusements of the world, to prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.—Thus you covenant, promise and engage.

We do now receive you into our communion, and promise to watch over you with christian affection and tenderness, ever treating you in love as a member of the body of Christ, who is head over all things to the church.—This we do, imploring of the great Shepherd of Israel, our Lord and Redeemer, that both you

and we may have wisdom and grace to be faithful in his covenant, and to glorify him with the holiness which becomes his house forever. AMEN.

The following is a list of the members of the First Church in Springfield, April, 1821.

Mercy Colton	Orpha Winslow
Elizabeth Stebbins	Huldah Hitchcock
Samuel Morgan	Eunice Marble
John Pynchon	Ruth Stebbins
Mercy Colton 2d	Ruth Hitchcock
Judah Chapin	Oliver Collins
Lois Chapin	Elizabeth Bliss
Ebenezer Bliss	Abigail Butler
George Brewer	Darius Wright
Mary Brewer	Polly Wright
Chauncy Brewer	Nancy Bliss
Anna Brewer	Sabra Smith
Luther Hitchcock	Thankful Colton
Amy Hitchcock	Elizabeth Murphey
Zebina Stebbins	Merriam Burt
Mary Stebbins	Azubah Sykes
Alexander Bliss	Chloe Burt
John Hooker	John Stebbins
Sarah Hooker	Hannah Stebbins
Zenas Bliss	Martin White
Mary Bliss	Lucy White
Bathsheba Warner	Jacob Bliss
Lucy Bliss	Mary Bliss
Lois Stebbins	Hannah Hopkins
George Bliss	Abigail Ely
Nancy Nichols	Moses Burt, Jr.
Betsey Stebbins	Mary Burt
Lucy Hitchcock	Nancy Bates
Justin Ashley	Mary Miller
Love Ashley	Heber Hitchcock
Abigail Bonnor	Lois Hitchcock
Abigail Gardner	Pelatiah Bliss
Betsey Stevenson	Polly Bliss

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Ithamar Stebbins
Deborah Stebbins
Henry Chapin
Huldah Cadwell
Nancy Bates
Abigail Bartlett
Merriam Ferre
Joseph Ferre
Mehitable Ferre
Margaret Rumrill
Electa Janes
Lydia Sargent
Henry Frost
Calvin Wright
Lois Wright
Phebe Stebbins
Jerusha Lloyd
Rachel White
Mary Ann Follet
Assenath Ferre
Abigail White
Hubbard Bliss
Emily Bliss
Pamela Searle
Polly Edson
Solomon Warriner
Mary Warriner
Naomi Kneeland
Sally Dickman
Nancy Gridley
Mary Sampson
Elizabeth Colton
Mary Burt
Elizabeth Stockbridge
Rachel Collins
Uriah Ferre
Elizabeth Clark
Huldah Ball
Elizabeth Snow

Henry Brewer
Lucy Brewer
Eunice Stebbins
Olive Rider
Temperance Bliss
Betsey Brewer
Merriam Taylor
Sophia Hall
Catherine Stebbins
Charlotte Williams
Sophia Brewer
Elisha Bliss
Almira Bliss
John Gains
Patty Gains
Rebekah Rogers
Jane Peters
Assenath Caswell
David Ames
Rebekah Ames
Benjamin Corey
Anna Ball
Eunice Sheldon
Ann Sage
Mary S. Osgood
Abigail Bliss
Frances Warner
Azariah Vanhorn
Mary Cadwell
Phila Bates
Henry Kirkham
Lyman Wood
Sophia Wood
Elizabeth Parsons
Elizabeth Bliss
Alfred Warriner
Elizabeth Collins
Seth Bliss
Rhoda Ferre

Mary Collins
Daniel Bontecou
Harriet Bontecou
Persis Burnham
Moses Burt
Sophia Toby
Caroline Morris
Alfred Burt
Bathsheba Bliss
Wid. Eliz. Stevenson
Mary Miller
Sally Stebbins
Cornelia Lombard
Mary Chaffee
Catherine Lombard
Sarah Chapin
Mary Ames
Erastus C. Baker
Francis Bliss
Hannah Wilner
Solomon Ferre
Esther Pynchon
Lucy Walkley
George Colton
Lucretia Colton
Joseph Ashley
Nancy Russell
Sarah Orcutt
James Russell
Acsah Simons
John Ingersoll
Elizabeth Ingersoll
Susan Childs
Sarah Hooker
Mehitable Taylor
Aurelia Drake
Lucretia Bliss
Lovina Stebbins
Emily Stebbins
Harriet Runwill
Mary Richardson
Roger Adams
Flavia Burt
Charlotte Ames
Hannah Hatch
Henry Bliss
Hannah Bliss
Harvey Blake
Lucinda Blake
Richard Walkley
Abigail Cooley
Nancy Chapin
Martha Stebbins
Susan Leanard
John Wood 2d
Nancy Ferre
Parmenas King
Francis Burt
Rex Burt
Horace Richardson
Mary More
Harvey Sanderson
Dolly Lombard
Rebekah Newbury
Hannah Rogers
Emily Rogers
Benjamin Bisby
Lydia Clark
Huldah Ball 2d
Fanny Holbrook
Laura Carew
Moses Bliss
Mary Bliss
Sally Wood
Phebe Lee
Thomas Sargent
Joseph Lombard
Jacob Perkins
Sally Perkins
Samuel Chandler

Sally Chandler
Clarissa Foot
Volorus R. Paine
Theodore Warriner
Rachel Warriner
Mary Bliss
Jonas Coolidge
Lois Coolidge
Joel Miller
Elizabeth B. Whitney
Oliver B. Morris
Lucy Crocker
John Wood
Sally Wood
Emily Billings
John Wright
Deborah Belcher
Sarah Stedman
Sally Bliss
Rebekah Cooley
Sarah Eliot
Betsey Foot
Pamela Hitchcock
Margaret Ferre
Cyrus Newel
Allen Look
Joshua Crosby
Rebekah Crosby
Clarissa Sparhawk
Sally Belcher
Assenath Hamlet
Esther Potter
Henry Comstock
Lucy Comstock
Jonas Butterfield
Ann Butterfield
Daniel Field
Sally Field
Erastus Hitchcock
Polly Hitchcock

Harriet McQuivy
Zebina Walker
Phila Walker
Ruth Stebbins
Fanny Crocker
Stephen Collar
Rachel Parsons
Resign Murphy
Ziba Stevens
Nancy Stevens
Charles Wood
John B. Kirkham
Betsey Kirkham
Samuel Kilbourn
Lucinda Woodman
Lucy Jones
Oliver Baker
Laura Baker
Emily Childs
Electa Ingersoll
Lura Sampson
Abigail Dale
Sally Bliss
Abigail Lombard
Hannah Cooley
Eunice Brewer
Emma Osborn
Harriet Osborn
Hezekiah Loomis
Ruth Loomis
Sally Burnet
Eli Stevenson
Diedamia Griswold
Clarissa Griswold
Cynthia Cooley
Jacob Yance
Alvah Whitmarsh
Lydia Whitmarsh
Laura Lee
Pliny Dickinson

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N. MANCHESTER,
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